

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 148569
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 H-01 SS-15 SSO-00 PM-04 SP-02
INR-07 INRE-00 /040 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:FLW
APPROVED BY P - MR. HABIB
EA - MR. HOLBROOKE
H - ASWIFT (INFO)

-----082908 250203Z /65

O R 250036Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148569

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: HABIB/BROWN APPEARANCE BEFORE SFRC

REF: (A) STATE 135539, (B) STATE 143441

1. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND GENERAL BROWN OF JCS APPEARED BEFORE SFRC JUNE 24 TO DISCUSS TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLANS.
2. GENERAL ATTITUDE OF MEMBERS WAS MUCH MORE FAVORABLE TO TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLAN THAN HAD BEEN CASE DURING EARLIER HABIB/BROWN AND ADMIRAL TURNER APPEARANCES BEFORE SFRC (REFTELS). CARPING TONE PRESENT IN QUESTIONING OF TURNER AND EARLIER DOUBTS ABOUT THE FORCE BALANCE ASSESSMENT WERE GENERALLY ABSENT. SENATORS APPEARED SATISFIED THAT WITH-
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PAGE 02 STATE 148569

DRAWAL PLANS HAD BEEN BASED ON THOROUGH STUDY OF FORCE BALANCE, THAT PROSPECTS WERE GOOD FOR ROK TO SHOULDER OWN GROUND DEFENSE BURDEN, AND THAT IF WITHDRAWAL PROPERLY CARRIED OUT, THERE WOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT RISK TO DETERRENT.

3. HABIB/BROWN UNDERLINED NEED FOR COMPENSATORY MEASURES

AS WITHDRAWALS TAKE PLACE AND ROLE OF CONGRESS IN THIS REGARD. NUMBER OF SENATORS PICKED UP THIS THEME, STRESSING THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE CRUCIAL FACTOR IN

MAINTAINING DETERRENCE. SENATOR HUMPHREY, DROPPING HIS EARLIER OPPOSITION TO WITHDRAWAL PLANS (REF A), STRONGLY ADVOCATED PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ROK, BUT EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT CONGRESS WOULD COME THROUGH WITH SUFFICIENT AID.

4. APART FROM COMPENSATORY MEASURES PER SE, MEMBERS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES' PERCEPTION OF GROUND TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND OF OUR GENERAL POSTURE IN ASIA. HABIB/BROWN ASSURED THEM THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR OUR COMMITMENT TO KOREAN SECURITY AND OUR INTENTION TO REMAIN AN ASIAN POWER.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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